AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn)

2. (withdrawn)

3. (withdrawn)

4. (withdrawn)

5. (withdrawn)

6. (withdrawn)

7. (withdrawn)

8. (withdrawn)

9. (canceled)

10. (withdrawn)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A process for selecting investments in a population of book-valued funds, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a population distribution representative of the past investment performance of each of the book-valued funds within an asset class, said past investment performance being measured in a two-dimensional spatial distribution with one dimension being investment returns and the other dimension being the risk of those returns;

(b) identifying unanticipated anomalies in the population density throughout the distribution by dividing said population distribution into plural areas of equal-sized areas by population under the assumption that the population is uniformly random and forms a normal distribution about a central point for said population distribution;

(c) measuring the population of said book-valued funds in each of said equal-sized areas;

(d) ranking the equal-sized areas by population size with a rank; and

(e) selecting for future investment those book-valued funds that are found in at least one said equal-sized areas having a high measured population size ranking, relative to all ranks, when so ranked.

14. (original) The process of claim 13 wherein said population distribution is a display of investment returns, denominated as the average of past periodic returns as a function of investment risk, denominated as the variance of those past periodic returns around their average for each of said book-valued funds in said population.

15. (original) The process of claim 13 wherein said population distribution is a display of investment returns, denominated as the average of past periodic returns, as a function of investment risk, denominated as the covariance of those past periodic returns to the average past periodic returns for the population for each of said book-valued funds in said population or those past periodic returns for an associated market index .

16. (original) The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

sectioning said population distribution into from four to twenty-five of said equal-sized areas under the assumption that the frequency distribution of values within the asset-class population, as calibrated for investment return and risk on that return, conforms to a normal distribution from a center point of investment return and risk, respectively, for a given asset class.

17. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein said step of sectioning said population distribution into said equal-sized areas is by drawing a dividing line at 0.675 standard deviations from a center point of investment risks to form portions of said population distribution, and then drawing a dividing line also at 0.675 standard deviations, from the center of said returns for each said portion of the population distribution to produce said equal-sized areas.

18. (original) The process of claim 13, wherein said past investment performance is calculated for a number of periods adequate for generating a valid measure of returns variance consistent with preselected conventions of measurement in use by an investor.

19. (original) The process of claim 18, wherein said number of periods is at least five years preceding the investment selection.

20. (original) The process of claim 13, wherein said asset class is a grouping of the funds by unique commonalties in pattern and level of said past return variance.

21. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein said step of sectioning is dividing said population distribution into sixteen equal-sized areas that can be assumed to be of equal population size under the assumption of normal distribution.

22. (previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein said selecting comprises combining the population of two or more of the most populated areas so ranked in terms of population size to form a single composite selected area.

23. (canceled)

24. (original) The process of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

investing in those funds that populate said single composite selected area.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (original) The process of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

creating an investment portfolio by holding funds in said single composite selected area for at least thirty-six months.

31. (canceled)

32. (original) The process of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

(i) selling funds in said single composite selected area after said at least 36-month holding; and

(ii) using proceeds of said selling to further invest in a group of funds.

33. (canceled)